

Report To: Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee

Date: 14 October 2024

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Litter Picking Trial

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee with information to consider for a litter picking trial.

2. LITTER PICKING ISSUE

2.1 West Swindon Parish Council has almost tripled the number of bins across West Swindon over the last seven years. All bins are emptied on a Monday and Friday, village centre bins daily and most other bins are emptied through the week. Historically, there has been no emptying of general litter bins over the weekend period, however, Swindon BC emptied village centre bins once on the weekend up until 2021.

2.2 The additional bins have improved litter in the specific vicinity of the bin e.g. bus stop/play area but have not reduced the volume of litter dropped generally. This has been noticed and reported by Parish Council volunteer litter pickers.

2.3 Recently, comments on social media focused on Shaw Forest Park and suggested volunteers should be supported to litter pick this area. Whilst there are many litter picking activities happening across the Parish on a monthly basis, Shaw Forest Park is not one of the regular locations.

3. PROPOSAL:

3.1 It is proposed that West Swindon Parish Council trials a litter picking station similar to the 2 Minute Foundation <https://2minute.org/Stations>

3.2 The concept is to provide litter pickers and bags and promote a 2 minute litter pick. There is a circular walk around Shaw Forest park that might encourage someone to take a litter picker and bag.

3.3 We would suggest that the board is located by an entry point from the car park and an additional bin is added for the bags of litter being returned to the station.

3.4 This has been introduced at St Marks Recreation Ground and has not been vandalised or stolen.

3.5 If it proves to be successful, it could be replicated in other parks.



4. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The proposal cost would be very low due to the creative skills within the team. Costs would be for the materials required to make the station and litter pickers. This would be less than £200 plus staff time. The cost of replacement litter pickers could be an issue however if they are repeatedly lost or stolen the board could be removed.
- 4.2 In terms of risk, the risk of injury using a litter picker is very low however, existing volunteers sign and abide by a risk assessment and safe system of working that would not be practical or available on a 'help yourself' basis. We would add a *Don't Pick – Report* line to discourage the collection of anything sharp or dangerous.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

- 5.1 It is recommended that Councillors consider the information in this report and agree the proposal.

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager/Clerk